



Thunder Bay, Ontario

Volume 87

January 2021

Issue 01

## Freeze Your Buns Off

The annual "Freeze Your Buns Off" QRP Contest (FY-BO) will take place Saturday February 6, 2021.

Unfortunately, we will not be participating as a group at the 55 Plus this year. Anyone interested in doing their own operation this year can find full information at:

<https://www.qrpcontest.com/FYBO/>

Submitted by Mike VE3EDX/backyard portable

## ISS SSTV

First off, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and hope this finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. Since we have been put into lockdown again, we can only hope that with our personal resolve, we will come out the other side in a much better state. We have been doing pretty well so far and I hope that we can stay sane enough to enjoy each other's company again soon. Christmas went smoothly although a bit different. I am not sure how I found out about this but it proved to be interesting. I was told that the ISS international space station was celebrating 20 years of amateur radio on board. It was decided to use SSTV slow scan TV to send pictures to any amateur or non amateur on earth that could receive and download them. These pictures were made up from different events over the 20 years and captured in picture form to be sent out to the groups involved in the contact with the ISS. The equipment needed could be as simple as a handheld held over the mike input of a computer and using the MMSSTV program that is easily obtained from the internet or a dedicated wired system and fancy rotator to follow the exact path of the ISS. Whatever way you chose, it will download pictures. I managed to download 27 images with about 7 that were 100% clear. Once the image was downloaded, you could copy the image to an email and send it to the group that was sponsoring this event and include all the information that they required, they

would send you a certificate confirming your contact with the ISS. I sent in two pictures of good quality and on Jan 2 2021, I received an email with the copy of my certificate. I must say, it was pretty cool. I have attached a picture of it. I got a few of the local guys involved in chasing the ISS. Some of them got up to catch the early morning passes at 5 to 7 am. With the way I had my radio and computer connected, I left everything on. Every time the ISS came into range and was transmitting, I received pictures of various qualities. We compared notes and pictures and it was a good group effort. So with that accomplishment under my belt, I am learning more about FT8 and getting that set up and running. Another new learning curve.... Stay tuned. See you on the bands

73's

Randy VA3OJ



## **LARC SENATE**

Robert Hansen VE3RVA  
Dave Kimpton VE3AVS  
Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD  
Terry Stewardson VA3LU  
Ed Baumann VE3SNW

## **LARC EXECUTIVE**

**President:** Randy Gottfred VA3OJ

**VP:** Bob Hansen VE3RVA

**Treasurer:** Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

**Secretary:** Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

**Board Member:** Ed Baumann VE3SNW

**Board Member:** Mark Vaillant VA3MVR

**Board Member:** Mike Skillen VE3EDX

**Board Member:** John Plumridge  
VE3FMT

**Board Member:** Randy McAllister  
VE3WBW

## **LARC Emergency Coordinator**

**Brad Harris VE3MXJ**

## **ARES Amethyst District Emergency Coordinator**

**Warren Paulson, VE3FYN**

## **CANWARN**

**VA3JMS John 767-3631**

**VE3RRP Karl**

## **Public Service Events**

**VA3TBA Chris Chadwick**

## **Accredited Examiners**

**VE3FAL Fred Lesnick 577-0789**

**flesnick@tbaytel.net**

**VE3VAI Lori Bedford (807) 630-  
7688 lbedford@tbaytel.net**

## ***al of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club***

**2021**

## **ABOUT US**

The Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) is an incorporated not for profit group of amateur radio operators in the Thunder Bay area that meet for self education, community service and fellowship. . Our postal address is 1100C Memorial Ave. Suite 184, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 4A3. This newsletter is published monthly except for July and August by Ed Baumann VE3SNW and questions and submissions may be emailed to [hqnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:hqnewsletter@gmail.com)

## **Amethyst District ARES**

**Providing emergency communications  
for Northwestern Ontario**

## **Emergency Coordinators**

Atikokan: Warren Paulson, VE3FYN (ARES DEC, Amethyst District)

Sioux Narrows: Woody Linton, VE3JJA

Fort Frances: Rod Davis, VE3RYD (ARES EC, Fort Frances & area)

Kenora: Chris Bigelow, VA3ECO (ARES EC, Kenora & area)

Dryden: Bob Ernewein,, VE3YDN

Thunder Bay: Brad Harris, VE3MXJ (ARES EC, Thunder Bay)

## **Nets and Exercises**

We conduct an open weekly HF net on 80 and 40 metres. The purpose of this net is to monitor regional propagation conditions, share information, and practice net procedures.

Time: Wednesdays at 1700 ET, 1600 CT

Note: 2200Z during standard time 2100Z during daylight saving time

Frequency: Primary 3.675 MHz LSB, Secondary 7.135 MHz LSB

<http://www.ve3rib.ca/nwoares.html>

## **ARES Zoom Meeting**

2nd Tuesday Every Month 7 P.M

If interested contact Brad VE3MXJ ( [bradmharris@shaw.ca](mailto:bradmharris@shaw.ca))

Or Lori VE3VAI ([lbedford@tbaytel.net](mailto:lbedford@tbaytel.net)) to be added  
to the email list to receive the Zoom Link.

## **LARC OPEN ACCESS REPEATERS**

**VE3YQT (Mount Baldy) 147.060 (-600)**

**VE3TBR (St. Joseph's) 146.820 pl 107.2**

**VE3BGA (Loch Lomond) 147.390, PL Tone 107**

**442.075 (+5 MHz) pl 100**

**144.390 APRS**

**QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo****Amethyst District ARES Digital Net**

The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will return March 13 - 14 for a full 48 hours, QSO Today host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG/WA6IGR, announced this week. Guth said the inaugural QSO Today Expo last August attracted more than 16,000 attendees, and he anticipates that the March 2021 event will be even more successful.

The upcoming QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will feature new speakers and presenters, panel discussions, and kit-building workshops among other activities. Guth pointed out that attendees can log in from anywhere. While he anticipates a good turnout by those who typically attend such ham radio events, the virtual Expo also offers an opportunity for those concerned about pandemic travel restrictions as well as for those who don't typically attend in-person events.

To register: <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/>

---

**Prez Says**

Hi to all and thanks for surviving another Christmas Season. I am sure that most of us made the best of a bad situation and spent quality time in your social bubbles.

As we head into 2021, may your new year be better than your last. It has been tough on all of us in different ways but we hardy northerners are holding our own and to varying degrees, playing well in the sandbox. It is my continued wish that we all stay safe and healthy and continue being part of the solution and not part of the problem.

Best wishes from my house to yours and please check in on the repeaters or HF and let us know if all is well or you need some assistance with anything(except printing money) and we will try to help out. We are in this together and we will be stronger if we stick together.

Thanks and 73's

Randy  
VA3OJ

We would like to start an ARES Digital Net. utilizing the Winlink System. I would be the Net Control using callsign VE3VBA.

The net will run on a weekly basis. Checkins accepted from Sunday through Saturday, starting a new week again on Sunday.

Check ins should include:

Call Sign, Name, City & Province and Mode and Band;

Example: VE3VAI THUNDER BAY, ON VARA HF 40 Meters.

Example: VE3VAI THUNDER BAY, ON VHF PACKET VIA VA3ROM-10

Feel Free to check in using more than 1 Mode. (Packet, Vara, Winmor, Telnet..etc)

Feel Free to use IMS 213 forms, Quick Message or other Templates, or straight text.

Have fun, try experimenting with different servers and try using Digipeating if capable.

I will send a list of checkins for each week.

73

Lori VE3VAI

---

**New Sunspot Cycle Strongest on Record?**

<https://tinyurl.com/y4vpftp3>

courtesy of Tom Haavisto VE3CX



# Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

## December 2020 Treasurers Report

Opening Balance December 1, 2020 **\$3,244.43**

### Income

Total Income **\$0.00**

### Expenses

Total Expenses **\$0.00**

Closing Balance December 31, 2020 **\$3,244.43**

<u>Trailer Account</u>		
	Previous Balance	1228.46
<u>Income</u>		
Interest		\$0.00
Total		<b><u>\$1,228.46</u></b>
<u>Expenses</u>		
Total Expenses:		<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>
	Balance in Trailer Account	<b><u>\$1,228.46</u></b>

### Term Account

Opening Balance December 01, 2020 **\$2,073.43**

Interest **\$0.26**

Closing Balance December 31, 2020 **\$2,073.69**

**Karl Hamilton VE3RRP**  
**Treasurer**



## Minutes for the

## Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

**Date: December 10, 2020 on Zoom**

**President, Randy Gottfred VA3OJ Presiding.**

### Guest Speaker:

Ed Baumann VE3SNW: Current Sunspot Cycle

### Treasurer's Report: by Karl Hamilton VE3RRP

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moves to accept the report as printed in Hi-Q. Karl reported that the club had about \$150 more than last year at this time. Second: Brad Harris VE3MXJ Passed Unanimously.

### Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moves to accept the previous meeting's minutes as printed in Hi-Q. Phil Moorey VE3AXL. Passed.

### Old Business:

#### No Events due to Covid19

Public Service (Chris Chadwick VA3ZU public events coordinator)

Past Events: none

Upcoming Events: none

### CANWARN (John Sacek VA3JMS)

no news

### ARES Brad Harris VE3MXJ, Thunder Bay EC

#### ARES zoom meeting Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>

Lori Bedford VE3VAI gave a power point presentation on message handling.

Weekly HF net continues on Wednesday.

Amethyst District Zoom meetings of ECs and AECs continues.

## Repeater News

Randy Gottfred VA3OJ,

Terry Stewardson VA3LU

10 metre repeater (Will be 29.680 R, 29.580 Tx)

VE3TBR repeater fixed with APRS digipeater active.

Club Trailer Bob Hansen VE3RVA :

No news

LARC Revitalization: 20/20

(Randy Gottfred, VA3OJ, Randy McAllister VE3WBW)

Revitalization Committee –no news

### Sister Club

Randy VA3OJ has reached out to Randy Miller VE7CRX of the Cranbrook Amateur Radio Club. Randy CRX will present the idea to his club.

### New Business

#### RAC Affiliation

Karl Hamilton VE3RRP moved to pay RAC 31.50 for LARC club affiliation dues. Seconded by Rob VanWyck VE3FLB. Passed.

Brad Harris VE3MXJ has lined up Alan Boyd VE3AJB, RAC Director Ontario North & East, to be guest speaker for January 14

Adjournment moved by Brad Harris VE3MXJ.

**Next Executive Meeting: January 7, 2020, 7 PM, Zoom**

**Next LARC Meeting: January 14, 2020, 7 PM, Zoom**

### New Q Codes for Current Times

QLD	I am locked down.
QUA	I am quarantined.
QPD	I am in the middle of a pandemic.
QTP	I have toilet paper. Want to trade for a new car?
QHG	I need a hug.
QSH	I am sheltering at home.
QHS	I have hand sanitizer. Want to trade for two new cars?
QSD	I am observing social distancing.
QCV!	I hate Coronavirus.
QWH	Wash your Hands
QWH?	Did you Wash your Hands?
QSS	Stay Safe
QTS	I have toilet paper AND hand sanitizer. Want to trade for IC-7300 or FT-991A?

courtesy of Randy McAllister



## Arecibo Radio Telescope suffers total failure.

The 900-ton instrument platform of the 305-meter radio telescope at Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico fell some 400 feet on the morning of December 1st crashing into the huge, already-damaged dish below, the National Science Foundation (NSF) reported. No injuries were reported. NSF said it is still assessing the situation. "Our top priority is maintaining safety." The calamity not only was a final and fatal blow for the observatory but for the people of Puerto Rico. Head of Telescope Operations Angel Vazquez, WP3R, called December 1 "indeed a sad day." Vazquez was in the Observatory's control room at the time, salvaging important instruments when he heard a loud noise.

"At around 7:55 AM, the platform collapsed due to the extra stress on the existing cables because of the main cable failure in November. Strands were starting to pop all weekend long, and it was just a matter of time," he told ARRL. It took about 15 seconds to collapse.

-- arrl news

## Ultra-Marathon (2021 year long operating event)

Fellow DXers, We want to wholeheartedly thank all those who have pre-registered for the Ultra-Marathon "Bands Alive" event organized by the True Blue DXers Club. In short the marathon runs the entire year of 2021 with scoring similar to the CQWW DX contest. 3 power levels, and two modes CW or SSB. You must pre-register to score points.

-- Full rules at <http://www.tbdxc.net/marathon>



## December is YOTA Month

The annual initiative sponsored by Youngsters on the Air initially focused on IARU Region 1 (Europe, the Mideast, and Africa), with young radio amateurs taking to the air with YOTA-suffix call signs. YOTA in Region 2 (the Americas) is following step, and K8Y, K8O, K8T, and K8A will be on the air from the US. The idea is to demonstrate amateur radio to youth to encourage them to get licensed and for younger radio amateurs to get active on the ham bands. YOTA-suffix stations have been sidelined due to the pandemic in 2020.

All radio amateurs can support this effort by contacting participating stations. An awards program is available. During YOTA month 2019, 47 participating YOTA stations racked up nearly 130,000 contacts. All young radio amateurs (up to age 26) are encouraged to participate. Direct questions via email to [info@ham-yota.com](mailto:info@ham-yota.com).

-- arrl news

## Opportunity to participate in Eclipse Propagation Experiment

HamSCI is looking for amateur radio operators to help with a global campaign observing the ionospheric effects of the December 14 eclipse across South America. Data collection requires an HF radio connected to a computer. To participate, tune your most stable RF receiver to a 10 MHz time standard station, tune down 1 kHz so that you hear the station's carrier signal, and follow the instructions on the HamSCI website to make a recording of the signals you hear.

Record and upload as much as you can the week of December 9th through December 16th, and researchers will use your data to make a more complete picture of the ionosphere during this space weather event.

The December 2020 Eclipse Festival is a pilot experiment for HamSCI's Personal Space Weather Station project, which is an NSF-supported effort to build a distributed network of geospace instruments hosted by ham radio operators and other citizen scientists.

Details of the eclipse experiment may be found here: <https://hamsci.org/december-2020-eclipse-festival-frequency-measurement>

-- Source IARU Region 2 <https://IARU-R2.org/>

# January 2021

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1 New Year's Day	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 LARC Meeting on Zoom 1900	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31